

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 8, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Robert Bollengier; and Mary Walsh. Member Bill Munroe was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar

gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier moved to pull consent agenda item, A. Approval of Minutes – Incomplete Regular Minutes of December 11, 2007 from the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with item, A. Approval of Minutes – Incomplete Regular Minutes of December 11, 2007 pulled. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Chair DeSack advised that the Regular Minutes of December 11, 2007 will be completed and continued to the next regular meeting agenda of January 22, 2008.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – pulled

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Christopher Gillette from

his position as 1.0 FTE Sr. Desktop Technician, effective December 29, 2007

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$388,088.53

D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

1. CURRY - Trenton

End Consent Agenda

Superintendent Geismar reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) December 15, 2007 EWGRSD District Discipline Report 07/08; (2) December 15, 2007 EWG Senior High School – Discipline Report; (3) Turn on the Lights! - Letter to parents from the Superintendent and EWG Kids, Inc.; (4) 1/8/2008 REVISED 08/09 Budget Development Timeline

Monthly Budget Projection 2007 – 2008 – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding this item.

Budget 2008 – 2009 – Director of Administration Robert Ross referred to the complete budget and summary page enclosed in members'

supplemental packets and said that there will be little to no change to the full backup that will be forwarded to members on Friday. Chair DeSack requested that the backup be provided to members at the Joint Meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2008.

Chair DeSack reverted back to Correspondence (3) and explained that the Superintendent is looking for the committees' consent to sign and mail the letter to parents. She asked members to review correspondence (3) throughout tonight's meeting and said that this item will be revisited after members have had the opportunity to review it.

Members discussed changes made to the budget workshop dates. A recommendation was made to change the January 23, 2008 budget workshop to January 29, 2008 due to scheduling conflicts for some members. Consensus of the committee was that the Superintendent will coordinate the suggested date modifications with members. This will allow Member Bollengier to check his calendar.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent –

Business –

Curriculum –

Special Education –

Maintenance – In response to Member Bollengier's clarifying question, Superintendent Geismar confirmed that once the bond is set, a strategic maintenance plan will be put into place. Chair DeSack

said that during the budget process the School Committee will

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receive a lot of information about how the district will track how the buildings will be maintained and that the Building Committee will also give the School Committee status reports.

Technology –

NEW BUSINESS – Technology Update – Superintendent Geismar said that he wanted this item on the agenda since there is an obvious issue because both of the district technicians have left. He said that the resignations have given Administration the opportunity to look at its technology staffing, examine if the district has the level of expertise it needs, and if it can upgrade without spending additional funds. Dr. Geismar said that Administration is checking with other districts to see how they staff and that he may bring back changes to job descriptions and salary levels which may involve negotiations with Council 94. He said that once the research is complete, he will report back to the committee. Chair DeSack requested that the Superintendent have the recommendations ready as part of the district budget.

National Grid – Grant of Easement: 930 Nooseneck Hill Rd. – Superintendent Geismar explained that this item is related to the

track project. He checked with Attorney Nick Gorham who had no problem with allowing National Grid the access needed to install lights and a transformer. Member Bollengier asked if the track committee has reviewed the Grant of Easement request. Consensus of the committee was that Clerk Coutcher will check with track committee members tomorrow evening at the track committee meeting.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the Grant of Easement to National Grid, conditional upon acceptance by Member Coutcher's group tomorrow night. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf School's Gymnasium Floor – Superintendent Geismar reported that this item was carried over to tonight's agenda as per the request of the School Committee and that the gymnasium floor has been part of the bond discussion. Clerk Coutcher voiced his opinion that the surplus Metcalf fire alarm funds should be reserved for and allocated to Metcalf's gymnasium floor and that the floor needs to be replaced as soon as possible.

Member Coutcher moved to appropriate up to \$92,000 from the Capital Fund for the replacement of Metcalf's gymnasium floor. Seconded by Member Maher.

Members had a roundtable discussion regarding details surrounding

this project and the bidding process. Chair DeSack directed administration to ask Athletic Director Steve McGrane which type of floor he recommends; ask the floor experts which type of floor is easiest to maintain; seek recommendations for floor coverings to be used during

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inclement weather; plan traffic patterns within the gymnasium; and seek advice on what equipment is needed to properly maintain the floor and what the equipment will cost.

In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding if the committee is committed to the \$92,000 mentioned in Clerk Coutcher's motion should the bid exceed \$92,000; Chair DeSack directed the Clerk to add to the motion: \$92,000 is not committed to Metcalf's gymnasium floor if the bid exceeds \$92,000. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Motion carries.

Bond Discussion – Chair DeSack reminded members of the joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. which will include a bond discussion. She distributed and gave an overview of reports she prepared relating to the outcome of the bond discussion members had on Thursday, January 3, 2008. After a lengthy detailed discussion, consensus of the committee was to present a recommendation of a \$6.0 million dollar bond to the Town

Councils on January 10, 2008.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross updated members on one remaining out-of-district transportation issue. He also reported that he continues to work with First Student regarding negotiations. In response to Chair DeSack’s inquiry, Mr. Ross confirmed that group stops are being examined for next year. In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry, Superintendent Geismar confirmed that the busing issue on West Log Ridge has been resolved to the concerned parent’s satisfaction.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #8901 – Maintaining Confidentiality of Students’ Records – Adoption – Member Bollengier moved to adopt Policy #8901 – Maintaining Confidentiality of Students’ Records. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – *Wednesday, January 9, 2008-Special Education Budget Workshop; Thursday, January 10, 2008-Joint Meeting; *Tuesday, January 15, 2008-Elementary Budget Workshop; *Thursday, January 17, 2008-Junior High School Budget Workshop; Monday, January 21, 2008-Martin Luther King Day; Tuesday, January 22, 2008-School Committee Meeting; *Wednesday, January 23, 2008-Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics Budget Workshop;

***Tuesday, January 29, 2008-Senior High School Budget Workshop;
Thursday, February 7, 2008-Town Council/School Committee Joint
Meeting; Wednesday, *March 5, 2008-Budget Workshop - *NOTE:
Budget Workshop Dates are Subject to Change**

**Chair DeSack directed the clerk to modify Important Dates and
Meetings to reflect the changes made to budget workshop dates.**

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – None

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:22p.m.
Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting
adjourned 8:22 p.m.**

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK